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sphere of governmental action. The changes needed in order to simplify our government are: (1) centralization of even greater powers, particularly in the state executives, including power to introduce and advocate bills in the legislature; (2) the present statutory and constitutional provisions requiring that a representative of the legislative body must reside in the district which he represents should be changed and a representative be allowed to stand for election in any district regardless of residence. "With law and custom changed so that a man might represent any district . . . the pork barrel as an institution of our political life would disappear; the representative would have more than local outlook and yet his sense of responsibility to the people would be enhanced." (3) The theory that election is sufficient to secure responsibility should be discarded and the short ballot for responsible executives with large powers substituted in its place. (4) These few high executive officials should have the power to make all appointments in the civil service, including the appointment of judges.

A number of chapters are devoted to historical developments. The book presents in a readable style old facts under new tendencies.

C. L. K.

GIDDINGS, FRANKLIN H.; HART, ALBERT BUSHNELL; JOHNSON, EMORY R.; SELIGMAN, EDWIN R. A.; WILSON, GEORGE S.; WILLOUGHBY, W. W.; GOODRICH, CASPAR F. *Problems of Readjustment after the War*. Pp. vi, 185. Price, \$1.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1915.

HENRY, H. M. *The Police Control of the Slave in South Carolina*. Pp. x, 216. Price, \$1.00. Emory, Va.: Published by the Author.

Dr. Henry has examined with manifest care and industry the statutes, newspapers and many manuscript county records of anti-bellum South Carolina, and has constructed a readable and interesting account of the system of slavery as it existed in that state. A liberal use is made of the method of incorporating frequent and extensive quotations from the sources into the body of his text. South Carolina seems to have evolved no emancipation sentiment and her treatment of the slave appears harsher than that of the states of the Upper South. Though a logical connection between the nineteen chapters, or topics, under which the subject is considered is not always clear, the work is a welcome addition to the contributions of General McCready on the early history of the institution of slavery in South Carolina.

J. C. B.

MAITLAND, FREDERIC W. and MONTAGUE, FRANCIS C. *A Sketch of English Legal History*. Pp. x, 229. Price, \$1.50. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1915.

This is a reprint of the well-known articles contributed to Traill's *Social England* by Maitland and Montague on the history of the law. Their publication in the present form renders them more accessible and should ensure for them a wider circle of readers. The editor, James F. Colby, who is Parker Professor of Law in Dartmouth College, has added a few brief extracts from other sources, such as Pollock and Maitland's *History of English Law* and Jenks' *Short History of*

*English Law*, some as insertions in the text and others as notes or appendices. He has also explained in the notes a few of the technical terms employed in the narrative and he has appended to each chapter a list of "recommended readings" on the topics there treated. The book should be of service to those who wish to make their first acquaintance with English constitutional or legal history and of special convenience for use by classes engaged in the introductory study of either subject.

The work of the editor has been confined within such narrow limits that it calls for little comment. His choice of extracts to supplement the text appears to be based generally on a sound judgment of historical values and his numerous references to books for more extensive reading display a wide knowledge of the literature of the subject. Yet many good authorities are omitted and poor ones are sometimes included. Citations from the Anglo-Saxon laws, for example, are made from Thorpe's translation and not from Liebermann's; Taswell-Langmead's text-book is recommended frequently for reading on the mediaeval period, while White's excellent volume is not mentioned. His text, with the exception of a few typographical errors of minor importance, is an accurate reproduction, though the same may not be said of the quotations in the foot-notes (*e.g.*, pp. 17, 22).

W. E. LUNT.

MICHELS, ROBERT. *Political Parties*. (Trans. by Eden and Cedar Paul.) Pp. ix, 416. Price, \$3.50. New York: Hearst's International Library Company, 1915.

*Political Parties* is the title and *A Sociological Study of the Oligarchical Tendencies of Democracy* the subtitle of a rather informing book by Robert Michels, Professor of Political Economy and Statistics of the University of Basle. The professor clearly has a thesis to prove and marshals his facts to prove it. This thesis is, as indicated in the subtitle, that the tendencies of democracy are toward oligarchy; or, to put it more concretely, that not only is socialism impossible, but that even a socialistic policy is impossible. The facts, arguments, and ideas that the author brings to his work are significant whether or not mistaken.

The major premises in his argument are that leaders are indispensable in democracies and in all democratic organizations as in social life itself, and that the inevitable tendency is for all leaders to assert autocratic control. As a corollary of these main premises is the doctrine that "organization, based as it is upon the principle of least effort, that is to say upon the greatest possible economy of energy, is the weapon of the strong." Organization means oligarchy whether it be the oligarchy of popularly chosen leaders or the oligarchy of a politically dominant minority. From out of this inevitable oligarchy come the decisions we erroneously refer to, according to our author, as the judgments of the masses, public opinion, or the will of the state.

"The modern party," he says, "is a fighting organization in the political sense of the term, and must as such conform to the laws of tactics. Now the first article of these laws is facility of mobilization." Centralization guarantees results.

"Reduced to its most concise expression, the fundamental sociological law of political parties (the term "political" being here used in its most comprehensive significance) may be formulated in the following terms: 'It is an organization